

CAMPO Policy Board Meeting

September 9, 2013, 1:30pm

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Jorge Morales – County Council

Zack Ellison – County Plan Commission

Ryan Brand – City Council

Roger Lang – City Plan Commission

Jim Ude / proxy for Tony McClellan – INDOT Seymour District

Rick Flohr – County Commissioner

Absent – Mayor Kristen Brown

Minutes –Rick Flohr motioned to approve the June 10 minutes. Ryan seconded.

Technical Committee Report - Laurence reported on the Technical Committee meeting. Laurence thought it was very productive. In particular, Laurence brought an amendment to the bylaws to the committee, and after much discussion, Laurence decided it needed improvement before he would take it to the Policy Board. The amendment was regarding the definition of the major change. The current bylaw language says a project moving more than one year is a major change, but his resolution was suggesting a tighter requirement that when the construction phase of a project moves a single construction season, then that would be a major change. This language was confusing and Laurence is going to review it before bringing it back. Meanwhile, Laurence indicated the committee will be used as the steering committee for the long-range plan (Metropolitan Transportation Plan). Members of the committee each described what their transportation needs might be over the next 20 years.

Planning Project Report - Laurence put up a few slides of project funding. CAMPO allocations went up to \$1.8M in 2010, and are now going down; it is currently down to just over \$1.5M. We have a number of projects ready for construction that exceed our funding. Rockyford is slated for 2015. Rick asked if this money ever goes away. Laurence said there have been some threats of losing money, but so far that has not happened beyond losing 2012 TE dollars (\$150,000).

Zack wanted to make sure we keep them informed if any funding is pulled. Laurence mentioned the funding being pulled by INDOT for the rehab of Bridge#26. Rick asked about the Bridge#26 project. Danny Hollander (in the audience) said it was on hold. Laurence mentioned that they pulled funding because it was an old project, but that they also delayed the replacement of the bridge to July 2015, which delays the rehab and People Trail placement of the bridge further. Danny pointed out that he can move forward on the bridge replacement without that funding to refurbish it. Laurence said he intends to meet with Tony McClellan, INDOT Seymour District Deputy Commissioner, to see if that money can be returned to this project.

Transit – Laurence talked about the transit route study. They are looking at new routes. They are looking at more frequent headways – every 30 minutes. They are looking at different hubs. He mentioned 3 locations in the central area that they are looking at: near the BCSC headquarters, at the corner of 17th and McClure, and at Central and 17th.

He also mentioned a bike/ped plan that is moving forward. CAMPO is also writing an RFP for doing the travel demand model and long-range plan. Next meeting we will know who will do that for CAMPO.

The transit system has chosen Mobilitat as the provider for the Call-a-Bus scheduling software. They will be training on that and should be fully ready by the end of the year.

Laurence admitted he has not yet set up the Transportation Safety Committee, which he budgeted \$20,000 for. Some of that money has gone to purchasing speed radar equipment for the police. They have made over 2000 stops in the first 8 months of 2013. As a comparison, Bloomington police made only 273 stop in all of 2012.

Projects:

Carr Hill – Starting Utility work this fall, and the construction will be started and finished in 2014.

Indiana Ave – to be let in January and should be done by end of the construction season. That's more than a \$5M project. Zack asked what that project included. Laurence said drainage, tree plot, sidewalks, on-street parking. It will be a very nice street and the East Columbus residents are excited about it.

6 Pedestrian Crossings – Those are to be let May 8th and they should be done before the beginning of school 2014.

Budget:

2014 – INDOT has allocated enough to have a \$240,000 budget. My budget is \$30,000 less than that.

Laurence suggested that if we could find a match for that, he believes that \$30,000 could pay for study of finding routes for People Trails to these smaller towns around the county that would like this. This is a plan of the alignments of the routes to these towns.

Zack believes this would be a good planning product to have so that when developments are requested, these alignments are already planned and can be preserved. Zack recommended that the Heritage Fund and other possible donors. Laurence said he would approach them. Zack suggested some kind of shared agreement.

Laurence pointed out that he did take advantage of the new bylaw's criteria that allows him to do an administrative modification. A project was over the 20% threshold and under the \$500,000 threshold, so he could do an administrative modification. A similar thing happened for a Safe Routes to School project which changed just a few months but jumped to another fiscal year.

Railroad – Laurence mentioned the expansion of the railroad. Rick wondered if this expansion has been approved. Laurence believes more permits are still being sought. Jim mentioned that the crossing on SR 46 will get gates. Zack said he thought that access to better freight rail will be a benefit to community. In particular, Cummins takes all the Cummins engines by truck to Chicago to put on a train.

Laurence pointed out that the transit station has had 20 minute delays with the longer trains. Zack wondered if we can get agreements with the railroad companies on travel times, and Laurence thought the answer was no.

Danny asked about grade separation, particularly on SR46; is there funding for this? Laurence said such a project would take decades for the MPO to save up for. Jorge emphasized the importance of this corridor to Columbus's growth. Laurence mentioned some expected train speeds. All the Policy members were very concerned about this increase in train traffic and its effect on the city.

Laurence said he would look into this. Roger emphasized we should be proactive on this and learn what the implications are. Jorge was concerned that an overpass is the only option and cannot be done from where the current crossing is now due to the slope down to the bridges. Roger says it would have to move south. Jorge thought that Roger or he might not ever see it, but Ryan might.

Jorge moved to approve the Resolution 2013-9. Roger seconded. Unanimous approval.

Roger asked about the Maple Rd entrance to US31. Laurence explained that that was put in the list of projects due to an earmark that has recently been pulled. Laurence still thought this might be a good project. Zack thought we should definitely keep it on this list so we can prioritize it in with MPO money if appropriate.

Meeting adjourned.